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Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development

Pakistan:* draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 60/205 of 22 December 2005,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Recognizing the catalysing role of information and communication technologies in promoting and facilitating the achievement of all development goals, and in this regard stressing the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the building of a people-centred, balanced and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See A/60/687 and A/C.2/59/3, chap. I.

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Recalling the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society[2] and the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the first phase of the Summit,[3]

Acknowledging with appreciation the role played by the International Telecommunication Union in the organization of the two phases of the World Summit,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[4]

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries to benefit from the potential of information and communications technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in helping developing countries to carry out science, technology and innovation policy reviews and in establishing a network of centres of excellence in science and technology for developing countries,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,[5]

1. *Reaffirms its commitment* to:

(a) Strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(b) Promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(c) Assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(d) Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

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[2] See A/60/687.

[3] See A/C.2/59/3, chap. I.

[4] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[5] A/62/136.

(e) Implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(f) Support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Recognizes* that the gap in technology and scientific capabilities between developed and developing countries, especially the least developed countries, is a continuing concern, as it impedes the capacity of many developing countries to participate fully in the global economy;

3. *Recognizes also* that science and technology are vital for sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication, and stresses that the technology gap between developed and developing countries constitutes a major challenge for developing countries in their efforts to achieve development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Stresses* the need to promote and facilitate access to the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies for the developing countries through the articulation of policies and measures to foster an enabling environment to facilitate the acquisition and development of technology and to enhance innovation capacity, on the basis of the mandates contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration;[*]

5. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technology, are vital for the achievement of development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity, and in this regard reaffirms the commitment to promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, for developing countries;

6. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects by, where feasible, mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

7. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum to address within its mandate the special needs of developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technology and environmental management;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in their national development strategies;

[*] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

10. *Urges* the international community to continue to work towards facilitating an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries;

11. *Underscores* that the transfer of technology to developing countries shall be provided under fair and affordable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms;

12. *Calls for* continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1] with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technology at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up.